

CROSSROADS

The New
Front Line



Ambassador Leonard's First Days

November/December 2019



Ambassador Leonard introduces herself to the U.S. Embassy community during her first town hall event. November 2019



Ambassador Leonard and members of Green Stripe celebrate filling one bottle-shaped "gigantua" recycling bin with plastic bottles after an Embassy-wide competition to commemorate America Recycles Day 2019 in November



Ambassador Leonard inspects the ranks and sits for a chat with President Muhammad Buhari following the Presentation of Credentials. December 24, 2019



Mary Beth Leonard
U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria

Welcome to another edition of Crossroads.

I have been so very touched by the warm welcome that I have received since my arrival in November as U.S.

Ambassador to Nigeria. It is a pleasure to introduce to you the latest issue of Crossroads.

In this issue, we pay tribute to the previous leadership of the U.S. Mission and the exemplary service of Ambassador W. Stuart Symington and former Deputy Chief of Mission David Young. You are also able to read about the new members of the leadership team who will be serving alongside me, including Kathleen FitzGibbon, the Deputy Chief of Mission and Claire Pierangelo, the Consul General in Lagos. I eagerly look forward to the next few years of working with them.

We are constantly working on projects that help build community and foster positive social change in Nigeria and in this issue, you get to see a few of those. We've highlighted three youth-focused activities in the areas of sports, recycling and technology. A major aim of our mission here is Strengthening

Inclusive Nigerian Growth and Human Development, and we're truly proud of how these projects fit into implementing that goal.

The work our development agencies do is also plugged into this mission goal. USAID and CDC have a focus on the health sector, and both recently hosted high level visits from their agency leadership. We consider Nigeria a very important partner and collaborator in the fight to improve health and the quality of life in the region, and these visits embody the high regard we have for the work being done here by local and international players.

We look forward to further strengthening the enduring partnership between the United States and Nigeria in the new year!

Enjoy the read.

Mary Beth Leonard

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In This Issue...

Vol. 25 No. 2



First Days

Pg 2



Green Stripe Initiative

Pg 8



Symington Farewell

Pg 10



Women's Academy

Pg 12



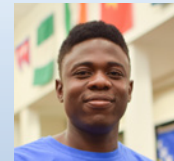
David Young Farewell

Pg 11



USAID

Pg 16



Education USA

Pg 18



A Digital Rebrand

Pg 20



ABUJA

Kathleen FitzGibbon

Deputy Chief of Mission

Kathleen FitzGibbon is the Deputy Chief of Mission since June 2019. In this capacity, she assists the Ambassador in leading the U.S. Mission's nearly 1,000 American and Nigerian employees in Abuja and Lagos to advance U.S. strategic goals in security cooperation, democracy and governance, economic growth and trade, and development and humanitarian assistance, among other areas.

Prior to returning to Nigeria, Kathleen was the Director of the Office of Africa Analysis in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (2016-2019) and the Division Chief for West and Southern Africa (2015-2016). Before this tour in Washington, she spent 11 years in various assignments in Africa. In Freetown, Sierra Leone, she was the Deputy Chief of Mission (2012-2015) and served as Charge d'Affaires, a.i. from October 2013 to October 2014. She was a key player in the international response efforts against Ebola. She was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Libreville responsible for Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. As the Political/Economic Chief in Kampala, Uganda from 2006 to 2009, Kathleen focused on negotiations with the Lord's Resistance Army and northern Uganda's recovery from decades of conflict. As the Political Officer in N'Djamena, Chad from 2004-2006, she assisted the Bureau of Refugees, Migration, and Population with managing the influx of 200,000 Darfur refugees and was a State Department negotiator at the Darfur Peace Talks in Abuja. She served as the Political Chief in Lagos, Nigeria as the country returned to civilian rule. Kathleen also was the Senior Reporting Officer in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons covering Africa, the Middle East, and Southwest Asia. Through this and other Washington positions, she has built expertise on human trafficking, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and bilateral military training, refugee affairs, human rights, democratic and economic reforms, commercial advocacy, and health diplomacy.

Before joining the Department of State, Kathleen taught African Politics, International Development, and American Government at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. Kathleen's hails from the village of Caledonia in western New York. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY. She has an M.A. in International Relations and is A.B.D. in Comparative Politics-African Studies from the University of California, Davis. She is an incurable Arsenal fan and plays soccer, golf, and tennis.



Claire Pierangelo

U.S Consul
General

Claire Pierangelo, a Minister Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service, assumed her duties as Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria in August 2019.

She most recently served as the Acting Deputy Commandant of the National War College at the National Defense University, where she was the Senior State Department representative and an Assistant Professor of National Security Studies. She previously served in a variety of senior leadership positions at the Department of State, including Director for Performance Evaluation for the U.S. Foreign Service, where she was responsible

for implementing broad reforms to the evaluation and promotion systems and as Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Mission to Vietnam. Other overseas assignments include Principal Officer in Surabaya, Indonesia; Economic Counselor in Vietnam where she helped negotiate the U.S. economic opening and WTO accession, Economic Officer in Rome, and Consular officer in London. In Washington, she has served as Office Director for Central Europe; Deputy Director for European Regional Affairs; Director of Bilateral Investment at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; Italy, OECD/EU, and Japan Trade desk officer. She has also served as Foreign Policy advisor to the Chevron Overseas Petroleum Company on global energy issues.

Ms. Pierangelo received her B.A. in European History from the University of California at Santa Cruz, her M.A. in International Studies and Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), her M.S. in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and her M.S. in National Security Studies from the National War College. She speaks Italian, French, Vietnamese, Indonesian and some Spanish and Haitian Creole.

LAGOS

A M B A S S A D O R

Mary Beth Leonard

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Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard is the U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

From 2016 to 2019, Ambassador Leonard was the Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. She also served as U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). She was previously the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Mali from 2011-2014. Her service in Mali was recognized with the Department's Diplomacy for Human Rights Award in 2013, an honor that annually recognizes a U.S. Chief of Mission who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to defending human rights and advancing democratic principles in his or her host country.

She served as the State Department's Senior Faculty Advisor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, following a year as the Department's Diplomat in Residence for New England, based at Tufts University. Ambassador Leonard was the Director for West African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State from 2009-2011, and Deputy Chief of Mission in Bamako, Mali from 2006-2009.

After joining the State Department in 1988, Ambassador Leonard served overseas as an economic and consular officer in Yaoundé, Cameroon; Windhoek, Namibia; and Lomé, Togo. She also worked in the Department's Operations Center and in its Office of Central African Affairs. She then served as political and economic officer in Cape Town, South Africa and thereafter as Deputy Chief of Mission in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Ambassador Leonard, a native of Massachusetts, graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. from Boston University, with a major in economics and a minor in French. In 1988, she earned a master's degree in international relations, with an emphasis on African studies, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. In 2004, she received a Master's of Security and Strategic studies the U.S. Naval War College, with distinction. She speaks French, Spanish, Afrikaans, and Dutch.





U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Kathleen FitzGibbon performing some soccer ball tricks



Chargé d'Affaires, Kathleen FitzGibbon presenting medals to the best teams of the tournament



The winning teams take a photo with the event organizers and sponsors



Cultural Affairs Officer Sterling Tilley delivering his remarks at the Beyond School Community Challenge pitch competition



Chargé d'Affaires Kathleen FitzGibbon and members of Green Stripe drop off plastic bottles at the Chanja Datti recycling hub and sing the ABCs song with children at LEA Primary School



IDP SOCCER BUDDY PROJECT

By Diran Adegoke

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy hosted the closing ceremony of the soccer academy for Internally Displaced Persons at the Kuchin Goro IDP camp. The three-month Soccer Buddy Project engaged teenagers in the camp in sports as a tool for reorientation. This program also provides these kids with training in leadership and civic education through short seminars to help mold their personalities and equip them for any endeavor they may pursue as they grow.

100 kids from the IDP camp participated in this year's Soccer Buddy project, they were organized into six teams to train and compete in a league format with Tivo FC emerging as the eventual winners of the competition. Speaking at the event, U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires

Kathleen FitzGibbon, noted, "I've played sports all my life, particularly Soccer and Basketball. Whenever I am on the field, I forget about all my worries and the only thing on my mind is to help my team win because when my team wins, I am also a winner. I hope some players in these teams would grow up to play in Super Eagles." Responding on behalf of the IDPs, Vice Chairman of the camp Mr. Usman Adamu commended the U.S government for support given to them. "This is one of the best supports given to us in the camp, it makes both the parents and children happy because things like this help us forget about our predicament and build us.

This project, which was implemented in partnership with Unique Stars Foundation, has also contributed to the local economy of the camp as most materials used for the project were sourced from vendors within the camp.

GREEN STRIPE INITIATIVE

By Sophie Savage

Since members of the U.S. Embassy's volunteer-led Green Stripe Initiative teamed with local social good organization Chanja Datti in January 2019, over 3,000 kilograms of Embassy waste has been diverted from Nigerian landfills. Instead, proceeds from the waste value were donated via the "Bottles for Books" program to help over two dozen children go to school this year at LEA Primary School in Gwarimpa—many for the first time ever. These "Eco-Scholar" children are identified by FlexiSAF Foundation, an Abuja-based non-profit, because they are among the poorest in the Federal Capital Territory.

On September 23, U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Kathleen FitzGibbon, accompanied by members of Green Stripe, visited the LEA Primary School and two local recycling facilities. Over 450 primary school children gathered to sing a welcome song. Large boxes of school supplies collected and donated by members of the U.S. Embassy community were presented to the headmistress of the school.

Nigerians produce over 32 million tons of waste annually. The Embassy's Green Stripe Initiative is a committee open to all interested in identifying ways our community can better care for the natural environment and reduce our impact on Nigeria and the world. In April 2019, Green Stripe hosted a launch event to kick off embassy-wide recycling.

THE BEYOND SCHOOL COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

By Diran Adegoke

The U.S. Embassy in collaboration with the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Association of Nigeria (MWFAAN) host the finals of the Beyond School Community Challenge (BSCC) at CBN Training Institute Abuja. BSCC is a national social entrepreneurship competition that discovers, mentors, and funds indigenous business solutions to critical community problems and needs identified by high school students selected from across the country. BSCC aims to engage young people proactively and creatively to create impact within their communities and develop entrepreneurial skills that would be marketable beyond the four walls of learning.

Applications for BSCC opened in June 2019 and 364 applications were submitted from public and private schools around the country. The top ten applicants were invited to pitch their ideas at the grand finale in Abuja on Saturday September 21, 2019. Cultural Affairs Officer Sterling Tilley saluted the courage of the young students for taking on the challenges of their communities. He also encouraged the students to ensure they continually use their education to solve social challenges. He said, "The purpose of education is sometimes misunderstood for acquiring a certificate that gets you a job to earn a living. No! Your education is meant to equip you with the right tools to make meaning contributions to solving challenges and creating new opportunities that in turn helps us all to live a better life."

This year's challenge was won by "Team Tech Dolphins" from Divine Progress School, Kaduna who designed an assistive app for persons with disabilities. Two federal legislators present at the event: Hon. Taiwo Oluga and Hon. Bamidele Salam pledged the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Naira to support the projects of the 10 finalists.

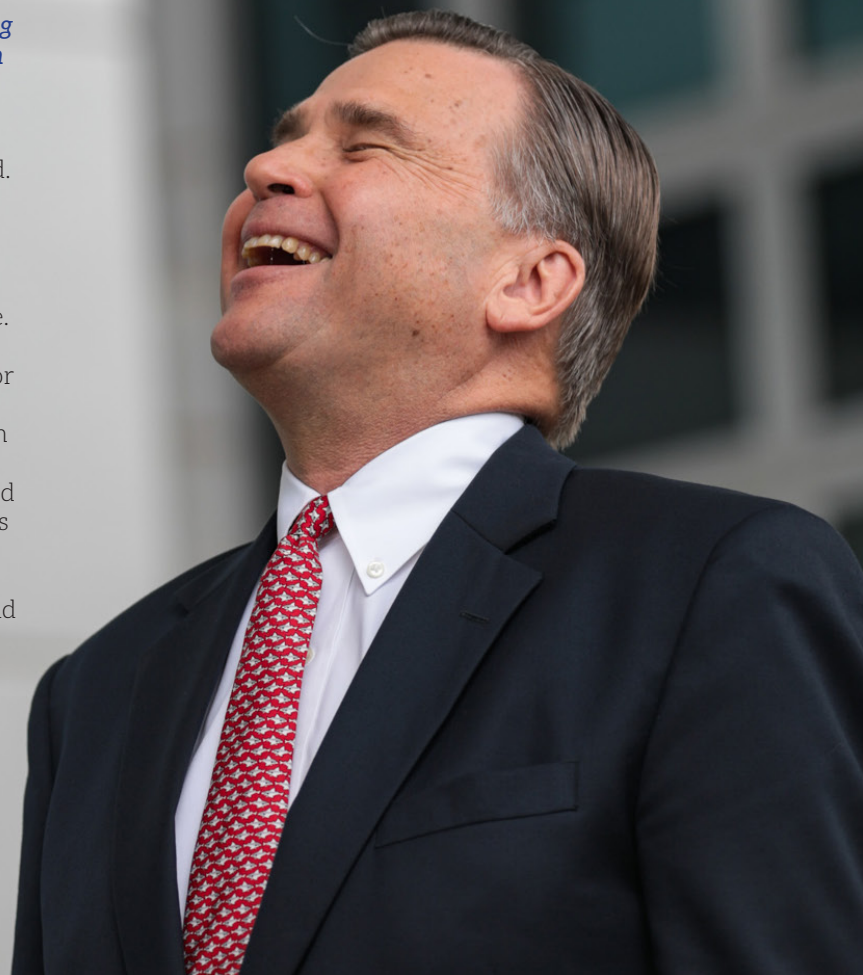
Remembering Symington

A tribute by Carol Johnson

On July 31 2019, Ambassador W. Stuart Symington completed his Nigerian diplomatic tour and retired to his home state of Missouri in the United States, bringing to an end a long and impressive career with the foreign service of the United States.

When I hear the words “Ambassador W. Stuart Symington”, there are several things that come to mind. In my 21 years with the foreign service, I have never seen diplomacy exhibited as I have with Ambassador Symington. Ambassador Symington’s calm demeanor makes him approachable (by anyone) and he has the innate ability to tackle tough issues with logic and ease. From security personnel to janitorial staff to other diplomats and leaders of foreign countries, Ambassador Symington makes everyone in his presence (no matter what level, nationality, etc.) feel important. I recall him stating he would visit all 36 Nigerian states during his first year in country. There were many doubts he could do so. Though he did not complete the visits within his first year, he did visit each state nevertheless. A fist bump here or there, a smile and “How are things with you?” - this is the W. Stuart Symington we all know and appreciate.

Ambassador W. Stuart Symington has made a significant impact on the U.S. Mission in Nigeria, Nigeria as a country, and its citizens. He will truly be missed.





Ambassador and Mrs Symington (front, centre) with the U.S. Embassy Abuja community

Blessed are the peacemakers

A Tribute to David Young

By Sani Mohammed

The story of peace building and peacemaking in Nigeria, especially in Plateau State, would be incomplete without a mention of Mr. David Young, former Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Abuja. Young's unrelenting efforts and advocacy brought to light the heroic act of Imam Abdullahi Abubakar, the 84-year old cleric who together with his deputy saved over 300 lives of his Christian neighbors on June 23, 2018 at Nghar Village, Barkin Ladi LGA in Plateau State. Imam Abubakar, along with four religious leaders from Sudan, Iraq, Brazil and Cyprus, received the United States International Religious Freedom Award on July 18, 2019.

Without Mr. Young's untiring efforts, perhaps Imam Abubakar's heroism of putting faith into action would have remained obscure. But unlike many, Mr. Young literally 'walked the talk', as he travelled across Nigerian cities, including five trips to Jos, where he engaged in mediation meetings with interfaith groups, government and security officials, humanitarian organizations, neighborhood watch and youth groups, religious and community leaders. In pursuit of peace, he visited the ravaged Nghar-Yelwa village to commiserate with the community despite the security challenges. He spoke at mosques, churches, media outlets and internally displaced peoples' camps. "Every Life is Sacred," Mr. Young, quintessential peacemaker and diplomat emphasized.



Following his Nigeria tour, David Young now serves as Chargé d'Affaires at the American Mission in Zambia.

ACADEMY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IS HUGE SUCCESS IN LAGOS!

By Ibrahim Aliyu



Consul General Pierangelo delivers remarks during the training program



A professor from Lagos Business School teaches the AWE participants

Women's empowerment and economic integration are key to Nigeria's long-term economic development. According to the National Economic Council (2016), Nigeria has more than 37 million micro, small, and medium scale enterprises which account for 84 per cent of the jobs in this country and 48.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. To boost women's business skills, the U.S. Consulate in Lagos, in partnership with Ascend Studios led by Inya Lawal, an alumna of the Fortune-U.S. Department of State Global Women's Mentoring Partnership program, organized the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a week-long

entrepreneurship training for 100 business women from southern Nigeria. AWE is a State Department program created in support of the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, which was launched by the White House on February 7, 2019.

For its inaugural AWE, the U.S. Consulate Lagos received over 6,000 applications for just 100 slots. We deliberately chose a very diverse range of female participants from throughout the Consular district in southern Nigeria. Some of the women had well-established, successful businesses, while others were at the very early stages of business development. We selected women with businesses in diverse sectors, including agriculture, fashion, education, catering, and technology. We housed the participants on a campus for the entire week to increase their networking opportunities and keep the women focused on the training. As a result, mentor/mentee relationships developed naturally, and the participants were able to learn from each other's business-building experiences. The women even formed a WhatsApp group to stay connected.

The primary focus of the AWE was for the women to complete a series of business courses on DreamBuilder, an online entrepreneurship training program developed through a partnership between Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Management and the global mining company Freeport-McMoRan. The courses were complemented by guided facilitation from over 40 local alumni and women business leaders. The participants described DreamBuilder as easy to use and very interactive. They also noted that the facilitated sessions allowed them to discuss how the themes from the courses could be applied in the local context.

As part of the training, we asked International Visitor Leadership Program alumni to conduct a session on how to pitch a business idea. After the session, the trainees wrote and delivered their pitches in a competition in which the top four would receive some seed funding. The winner of the contest delivered such a convincing pitch that six of the participants agreed

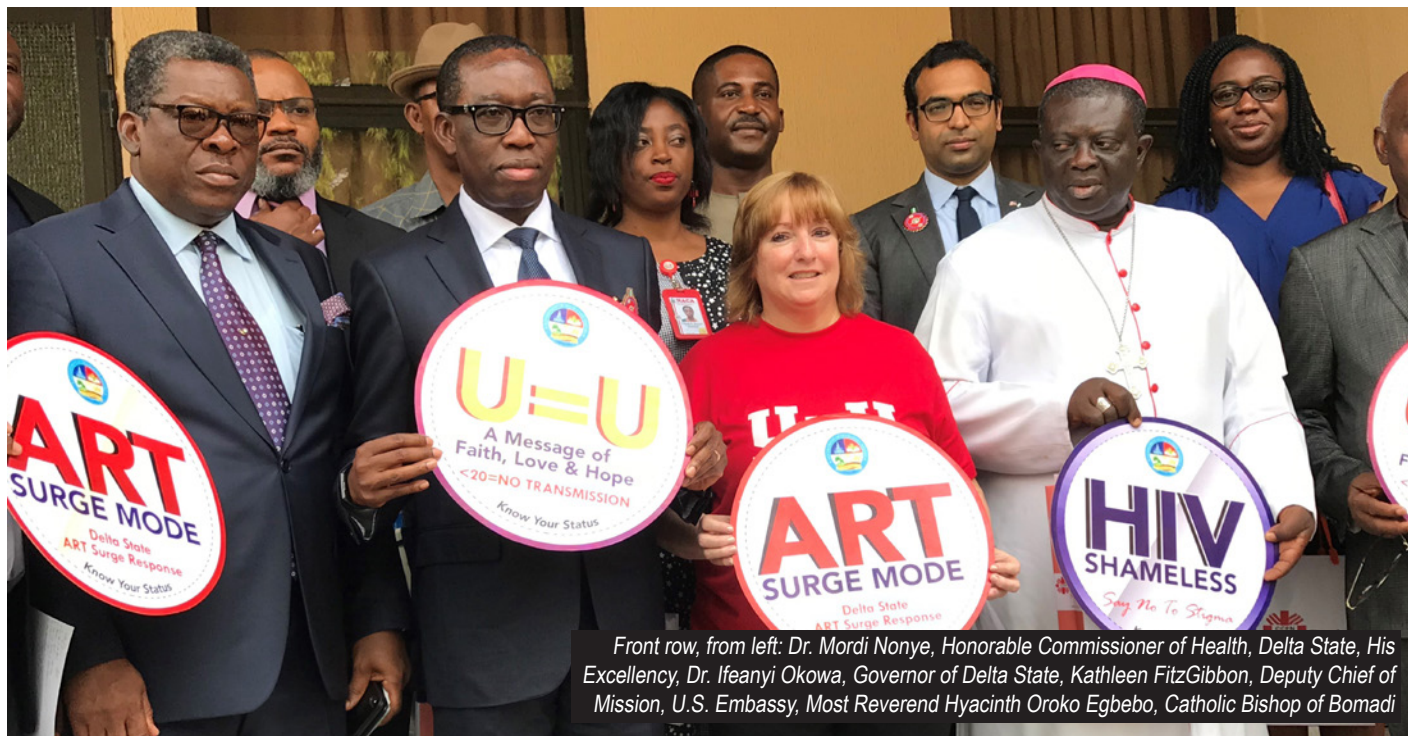
to become distributors of her product. The runner-up joined a pitch contest organized by the British Council just three days after the AWE and won the first place prize. In addition to the pitch training and contest, the AWE program included an exhibition for the participants to display their products and services. Everyone involved during the week, mentors, exchange alumni, and facilitators agreed to attend and as a result, several of them decided to invest in some of the women's business ventures.

The representatives from local organizations who served as mentors and resource persons were an incredibly valuable asset to the AWE. One example was Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ), which is a non-profit organization that advocates for greater representation of women in public and private sector leadership, and has over 9,500 members in its database. The WIMBIZ representatives were extremely impressed with AWE and agreed to assign each of the 100 female participants a mentor who will provide them with free mentoring and business advice. The Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, recently launched a fund to provide access to affordable finance for female-owned businesses. After participating in the AWE, the Trust Fund agreed to allow all of the participants to bypass the normal required training and apply immediately for their financing program. The Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library sent a team of volunteers to support the program.

AWE received widespread, positive press coverage. The common themes in the coverage were AWE's focus on teaching women practical skills required to create successful and sustainable businesses, the benefit of participants being connected with mentors, and the U.S. Consulate's goal of empowering women for the long-term economic development of Nigeria. One of U.S. Mission's primary goals is to support Nigeria's economic development, and entrepreneurship is a key driver of economic growth and success. Through programs such as AWE, the U.S. government demonstrates a sincere commitment to Nigeria's diverse and sustainable economic development.

U.S. MISSION NIGERIA'S SURGE ACTIVITIES TO BRING HIV EPIDEMIC UNDER CONTROL

By Kathleen FitzGibbon



Front row, from left: Dr. Mordi Nonye, Honorable Commissioner of Health, Delta State, His Excellency, Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Governor of Delta State, Kathleen FitzGibbon, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Most Reverend Hyacinth Orokogbo, Catholic Bishop of Bomadi

The U.S. Mission in Nigeria is focused on fighting HIV in the eight states with the highest disease burden with the goal of achieving epidemic control this year. The Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) announced support to provide an additional 500,000 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) with life-saving Antiretroviral Treatment (ART). Already, the U.S. and Nigerian governments have partnered to put more than 800,000 people on treatment as part of the overall PEPFAR intervention.

Our partners include the National AIDS Control Agency, State AIDS Control Agencies, the Global Fund, UNAIDS, the Ministry of Health, state health commissioners, the National Centers for Disease Control, National Reference Laboratory, and local implementing partners. In December 2019, the National AIDS Control Agency (NACA) gave the PEPFAR program a Red Ribbon Award for its support for the national response in Nigeria. In addition, Deputy PEPFAR Coordinator Murphy Akpu received an award and certificate in recognition of his coordination between NACA and

donors.

In 2019, our PEPFAR activities in Nigeria were allocated another \$75 million to end stigmatization in order to identify patients for treatment. Once on treatment, an individual's viral load becomes undetectable and therefore untransmittable to a sexual partner. Ending transmission is a critical to creating an AIDS-free generation.

Data-driven Game Plan

Our approach is based on the U.S.-funded National AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey. The survey determined the country's overall prevalence rate to be 1.4%, and that there are 1.9 million people living with the virus. Eight states account for more than 60% of the HIV burden: Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Lagos, Enugu, Imo, Delta, Nassarawa, and Benue. This data allows us to focus on getting all HIV-positive individuals on treatment in order to achieve epidemic control.

Our Message

Twenty years ago, HIV was a death sentence in Nigeria. This is no longer true. In fact, the ability to

end the epidemic is within reach. Since 2004, over 800,000 Nigerians have received life-saving ART thanks to PEPFAR programs. They are living normal, productive, and healthy lives and contributing to the economy. Encouraging all Nigerians to get tested, know their status, get ART, and suppress their viral loads to undetectable levels can end transmission of the disease.

Enlisting Political Leadership to Support Health Outcomes

By enlisting state governors, religious and traditional leaders, and civil society groups we hope to end stigmatization of the disease and encourage all Nigerians to know their status. Since August 2019, senior Mission leaders, including the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission, Consul General, and Country Directors for the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, identified the challenge of de-stigmatizing the disease to the governors and local leaders, as well as ending user fees for individuals seeking treatment, and assisting in the provision of rapid test kits.

I found answers within Africans – ANGELA OCHU-BAIYE

On my return from the Mandela Washington Fellowship, I sat through my longest flight ever, looking at the clouds, knowing I was over 40,000 ft. above the ground. The turbulence caused a jolt in my heart each time the seat belt sign came on. I reminisced about the questions asked during my interview that got me shortlisted for the program from Nigeria. Asked about my expectations if selected I replied that “I expect that my mind would be blown away” and YES it was.

Where do I start?

Do I tell you about Patrick O'Meara, the Indiana University VP of International Affairs and how his class provoked thoughts in me on what I understood by partnerships, how far an organization could go with it and the importance of being global in approach?

Do I tell you how I cried watching Americans sing the National Anthem and the fireworks that went up on the 4th of July after the baseball match in

Indianapolis? While it was a first for me, the spirit of “unity and patriotism” made me so emotional, something I longed to see in Nigeria.

Do I tell you about my visit to the American Publishing School for the Blind and how I coincidentally stumbled on Stevie Wonder's Piano and played it (which then rekindled my first love- MUSIC), or the bond I had now built with different American families as we exchanged culture, knowledge and value with each other

How do I explain that I never truly knew what Muhammed Ali stood for and how his life revolutionized boxing and beyond until I visited his center in Louisville and I asked myself “What am I fighting for?”

Do I tell you how a Malawian fellow looked into my blood donation product, showed me ways I could make it sustainable in the future, or how my Kenyan accountability partner was effectively dealing with a problem I

was struggling with in my NGO and how she put me through because I was vulnerable enough to share my fears? I found answers within Africans

Do I tell you of a community service in Bloomington where I cleaned a shelter for the homeless who were predominantly drug addicts and ex-convicts, and how that act of service was a turning point for me as a servant leader? Or how I got to tour key places in Atlanta like the CNN World Center, Georgia Aquarium, Civil Rights Center, World of Coca-Cola, and NASA Space Centre, Museum of Natural Sciences in Houston so I could publish a picture memoir inspiring young children in Nigeria?

So where do I really start from? What I can tell you is I am now more aware that I have a greater responsibility in my hands through the huge investment by the US Government in my leadership journey and growth. And now the world is watching to see what I would do with it.



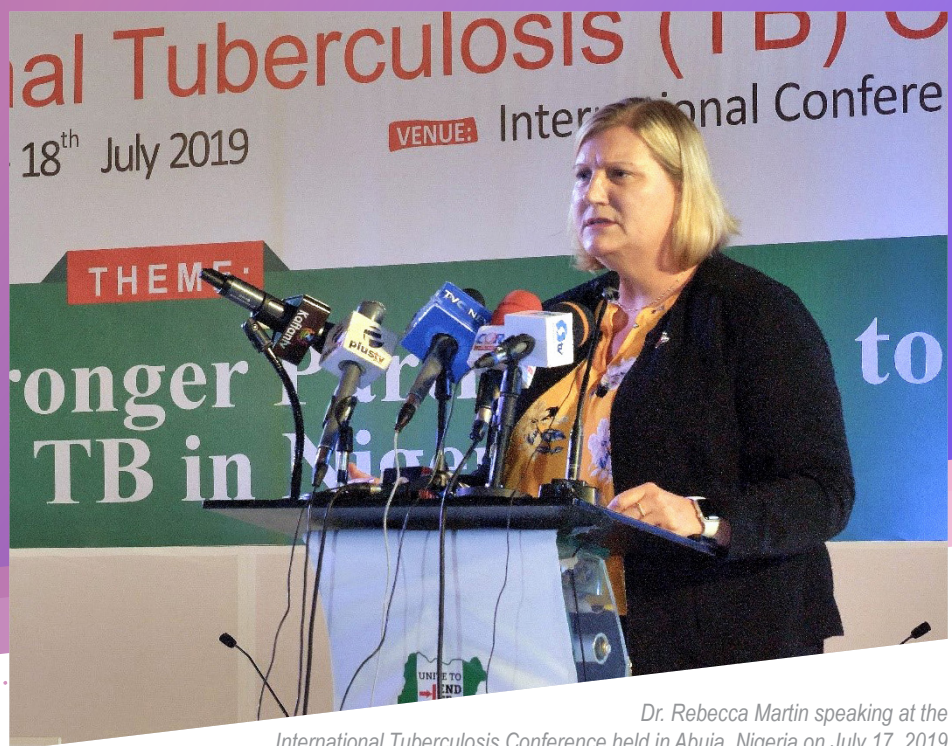
Far left: Angela with Mick Renneisen, Deputy Mayor Bloomington



Left: At Bradford Woods, Indianapolis after a team-bonding session

STRATEGIES TO ENDING TUBERCULOSIS IN NIGERIA

By Halilu Usman



Dr. Rebecca Martin speaking at the International Tuberculosis Conference held in Abuja, Nigeria on July 17, 2019

Abuja, Nigeria - Rebecca Martin, CDC's Center for Global Health director, recently spoke to more than 3,000 participants attending the Stop TB (tuberculosis) Partnership in Nigeria conference on July 17th. Those in attendance, at this two-day conference, included representatives from government, communities, civil society groups, academia, media, and the country's parliament. Martin provided a clear outline of challenging TB statistics in places around the world. She said that even though TB is preventable and curable, it remains to be the world's most deadly infectious disease, killing three people every minute and claiming almost two million lives each year. A fourth of the world's population - nearly two billion people - are infected with TB and nearly 10 million become ill with the disease each year, including almost 500,000 persons with drug-resistant TB.

In Nigeria, TB is one of the country's top public health priorities because it is one of the 14 countries in the world listed on all three of the World Health Organization's (WHO) high burden lists for TB, TB/HIV, and multi-drug resistant (MDR)-TB. Despite Nigeria's reported TB ranking there has been incremental progress in the quality of

TB treatment and care over the years. There is now an 85% treatment success rate and 85% increase in antiretroviral therapy (ART) among HIV-positive TB patients. At the same time, overall TB treatment coverage remains low, at 25% based upon data from 2017, and case notifications have stagnated over the past five years. The latter points to the serious burden of this disease because 75% of TB patients are not receiving care nor being notified that they have TB each year.

For several years, funding constraints have remained to be the key challenge towards combatting this deadly disease in Nigeria. The implementation of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for tuberculosis requires about \$336 million to address TB challenges by 2020 in Nigeria. The current estimated funding gap for TB interventions is about \$215 million (64%). Since funding for TB programs in Nigeria are driven by external sources, The Stop TB Partnership Nigeria was created in 2007 to coalesce additional resources (including human resources, technical expertise, financial resources, and in-kind contributions) from partners in the country and from international donors to support TB control response in Nigeria.

She also said that close to 40% of the total estimated TB cases (3.6 million) and 80% of the estimated multi-drug resistant cases worldwide remain undiagnosed or unreported each year, and that many of those affected are among vulnerable or hard to reach populations such as children and migrants.

Dr. Martin highlighted strategies that depict hope for the future. The World Health Organization's End TB Strategy has set bold and ambitious goals to reduce TB mortality by 95% by 2035 and to reduce TB incidence by 90% by 2035, compared to the 2015 levels. In addition to these new targets, there is increased political interest and commitment to ending the TB epidemic. United Nations (U.N.) member states have unanimously committed to diagnosing and successfully treating 40 million people with TB by the end of 2022, as well as providing 30 million people with TB preventive treatment by 2022 to protect them from developing TB disease. The target includes at least six million people living with HIV (PLHIV), four million children under five years of age, and 20 million other household contacts.

USAID ADMINISTRATOR VISITS NIGERIA

By Zack Taylor



Administrator Green meets Vice President Yemi Osinbajo to discuss the many humanitarian and development issues facing Nigeria



Administrator Green presents a goodwill gift to Igu District Head Tanzako Solomon during his visit to the area

“Thank you for sharing what you have accomplished with us”

In a whirlwind two-day trip to Nigeria, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Mark Green met with religious leaders, local officials, clerics, civil society activists and beneficiaries to get a first-hand look at USAID’s peacebuilding efforts and the role civil society plays in mitigating rural violence.

The visit helped the Administrator understand the critical role interfaith leaders play in mitigating violence in their communities, and the fact that these conflicts are often caused by disputes over access and distribution of resources, which are exacerbated by rapid population growth, urbanization, and desertification, among other factors.

Throughout the visit, Administrator Green emphasized USAID’s commitment to partnering with the government and people of Nigeria as they advance towards a self-reliant future.

In Igu District north of Abuja, Green commended local leaders for building upon USAID assistance to help maintain peace, stability, and religious tolerance in their communities.

In a meeting with the District head Tanzako Solomon, the Administrator praised the traditional council and Bwari Local Government Area Council for its effective resolution of disputes and mitigation of conflict between farmers, pastoralists, as well as other ethno-religious groups in the community.

“Thank you for showing us what you have done so that we can learn from you,” Administrator Green told Solomon. “The way you have worked with different members of your community to promote peace, reconciliation, and tolerance can serve as an example for others in Nigeria as they work to reduce violence and conflict and promote communal harmony.”

Solomon described for Green

the formation of the district’s conflict mitigation committee, comprised of different religious leaders, members of cattle breeders association, local officials, police, and farmer representatives, which he characterized as a simple and transparent means to resolving the frequent small-scale clashes between farmers and herders in his community.

Outside the district offices, Green exchanged ideas and lessons learned with women micro-entrepreneurs, youth leaders, and smallholder farmers, who benefited from the Feed the Future Nigeria Livelihoods Project. The five-year program helped vulnerable families diversify their income sources and produce foodstuffs that improved nutrition in the region.

In the capital, Administrator Green met with Vice President H.E. Professor Yemi Osinbajo to discuss the many ongoing humanitarian and development issues faced by Nigeria.

Vice President Osinbajo expressed appreciation for U.S. assistance in health, education, and agriculture, noting that the programs under the U.S. Feed the Future initiative made a strong contribution to the government’s National Livestock Transformation Plan, which also assists both farmers and herders enhance livelihoods, such as feed lots for cattle, and new opportunities for farmers to grow food to feed them.

“U.S. assistance helps in the right sort of places,” Osinbajo said. “especially with respect to health, humanitarian assistance, and education,” noting that that he looked forward to partnering more closely on renewable energy and education in the future.

Green said USAID is working to promote a climate in which U.S.-based businesses will be among many that are eager to invest in Nigeria, its work consisting of enterprise-driven development that is “doing well by way of doing good” and emphasizing promotion of a robust private sector.



The EducationUSA Opportunity Funds Program

By Malate-Ann Atajiri
and Abraham Ojima

EducationUSA Opportunity Funds Programs program seeks out high achieving low-income students to support them to navigate through the U.S. college application process. This year EducationUSA Abuja supported 34 students to secure full scholarships to study in the United States worth \$7.2 million. Abraham Ojima, a student of Government Secondary School Karu. Abraham's story is one of resilience. He spent two years in the program applying to schools because his family could not afford even a Nigerian university. Today, Abraham is thriving and enjoying his new life in the United States. He received over \$65,000/year to pursue his studies at Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania. This has been his experience thus far...



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On August 20th, 2019, I arrived in a place that would seem to be home for the next four years. It has been 2 months since I came here, and all I can say is, "a lot has happened in these two months." In these two months, I have been able to form some connections with some of the most amazing people I know so far. In these two months, I have been able to participate in a lot of activities. I am currently a member of the Alice Drum Women's center. As a proud Feminist, I joined this club because of its mission on gender equity and equality in the F&M community). I am part of the Physics and Astronomy Club, the African Caribbean association, and the Ware Institute for Civic Engagement. At the Ware Institute, I was paired with a mentee in 6th grade that I would work with throughout my four years in college. I also volunteer to give campus tours to middle-schoolers to foster a college-going culture in them.

I recently made my school's Rugby team as a right-wing back and was featured in my college's International Week as one of the "Faces of F&M."

For me, this is just the beginning of trying to make an impact on my campus' community and trying to grow as a person over these four years. I hope to major in Computer Science and either Business or Physics. The F&M experience is one I feel would provide me the skills I would need to succeed in my chosen field.

Thank you to EducationUSA Abuja for providing me with the opportunity to embark on such a tremendous journey!

The 2019 Opportunity Funds Program cohort and U.S. Embassy/EducationUSA officials



Abraham Ojima. Photo by Raluca Rilla, F&M '23



2019 College Fair Lagos/Abuja

September 23-25, 2019



EducationUSA Advisor, Kathryn Suwa moderates a session during the Abuja College Fair



Chargé d'Affaires Kathleen Fitz-Gibbon declares the Abuja fair open



Cross-section of students and parents at the Abuja College Fair



Consul-General Claire Pierangelo delivers remarks during the Lagos College fair



Consul-General Claire Pierangelo declares the Lagos fair open as EducationUSA Advisor, Chinenye Uwadileke cuts the tape



Consultations between students and a college representative at the Lagos fair



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